

Laughing Kids Follow Chickens

By Spc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

AL THAWRA, Baghdad, Iraq -- Although they usually patrol a southern portion of Baghdad's slum commonly called Sadr City searching for insurgent activity of the Muqtada militia, on Oct. 6 they did something entirely different: they handed out chickens.

The Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, out of Ft. Riley, Kan., attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, passed out 300 frozen chickens to residents along a road in their sector that is one of the poorest parts of what is notoriously the poorest area in Baghdad.

It didn't take long.

"We distributed the 300 chickens we had in less than half an hour," said 1st Lt. David Riggs, a platoon leader with Company B, 1-41 Inf. and a Dixie, Tenn. native.

After a truck brought the boxes of chickens



Photos by Spc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

1st Lt. David Riggs, a platoon leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, gets chased by a group of playful Iraqi children in the southern portion of Baghdad's Al Thawra district while he hands out chickens to local residents Oct. 6.

packed under ice to a staging point near a major thoroughfare in the district, the Soldiers divided the chickens among their vehicles and drove off to the area they had designated for delivery.

When they arrived, the local residents began peeking their heads out of the houses, trying to get a glimpse of what the Soldiers might be doing.

As soon as one Soldier opened a box and said "chicken," he was swarmed with Iraqi children.

An Company B, 1-41 Infantry Regiment Soldier passes out frozen chickens to a crowd of Iraqis from atop his Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicle in Al Thawra Oct. 6.

At first, the Soldiers went door-to-door, handing chickens out to the Iraqi females to ensure that families would be the recipients. That soon became unnecessary, and almost impossible, due to the increasing crowds of people.

Most of the Soldiers handed out the chickens from their vehicles to avoid being swamped, but a few chose to mingle with the people instead, running from house to house with a crowd of children in tow--or even sometimes hanging from their shoulders.

"The kids that live along that road are really nice," said Claremore, Okla. native Capt. Chuck Slagle, Company B's commander.

Indeed, to the kids the

humanitarian mission was all fun and games. Dozens of them chased after the Soldiers handing the chickens out on foot, laughing and smiling, jumping on the Soldiers if they stayed in one place too long.

It was an uncommon sight in a part of Baghdad that has become known for its violence and insurgent support. Due to the on-going efforts of the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, the violence is on the decline.

"We've gotten attacked with a few RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades] while patrolling that street a few times," Slagle said, "but it's not the people that live there. It's groups of guys that drive over here to specifically

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1,500 Rounds Seized



Photos Courtesy 1st Cavalry Division



Working off a tip, Task Force Baghdad troops detained a truck carrying more than 1,500 155-millimeter artillery rounds Oct. 7. The seizure was one of the largest by the task force to date. Ground forces were alerted to the suspected vehicle, converged on it and detained the driver and passenger. The munitions were found in the back of the truck during a search.

Pied Piper Brings Children Poultry

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ambush us.

"And we have never encountered an [improvised explosive device] there," he added.

Thirty minutes after they began, the chickens were gone. All that was left were empty boxes, most shredded by the groping hands of the Iraqi children.

"They really needed that," Slagle said. "That is one of the worst places in our sector.

"I just wish we could've had more chickens," he added. "We didn't make it as near as far down the road as I would've liked."

Slagle said other simple projects are in the works for this troubled area of Baghdad, such as handing out sheep or dates during Ramadan.

"Missions like this are fun, it's good that we can do a little something nice for these people," Riggs said.



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Capt. Chuck Slagle, commander of Company B, 1-41 Infantry Regiment, and one of his Soldiers unload boxes of frozen chickens from a truck at the company's staging area for a humanitarian mission in Al Thawra Oct. 6.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Where's the nearest telephone?

ayn aqrab tilifoon

Wednesday

High: 92
Low: 76



Thursday

High: 94
Low: 68



Friday

High: 96
Low: 70



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. James Hutton

122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Cmdr.: Maj. John Fuhrman

Public Affairs Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen

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Editor: Spc. Andy Miller

Staff Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Tony Sailer, Staff Sgt. Susan German, Staff Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, Sgt. Dan Purcell, Sgt. Christina Rockhill, Cpl.

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News Notes

Man Flees Court, Hides in Doghouse

JACKSON, Mo. (AP) - A man who fled from court authorities while facing charges of domestic and animal abuse was found a short time later in a doghouse. Paul Oakley, 43, was in court Friday for a preliminary hearing on three domestic abuse charges and one of animal abuse for allegedly abusing his girlfriend and her pet kitten. Authorities said he briefly escaped and was captured minutes later in a doghouse in Jackson.

Fugitive Phony Dr. Nabbed in Belize

MIAMI (Reuters) - Police in Belize have arrested a Florida fugitive described by detectives as a fake doctor who drugged his cosmetic surgery patients with an animal anesthetic and left a male bodybuilder with female breast implants. Reinaldo Silvestre, 63, was arrested in Belize City, where he was teaching and practicing medicine, the State Department said on Friday. Silvestre fled after Miami Beach police charged him in 1999 with fraud, aggravated battery, practicing medicine without a license and grand theft in connection with botched surgeries that left his patients permanently disfigured. Police got a tip Silvestre was in Belize and U.S. Embassy officials worked with police in the Central American nation who arrested him.

Giant Pumpkin Grown

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. (AP) - A retired Washington state firefighter who grows giant pumpkins in his spare time produced the winning pumpkin Monday at the 31st annual Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off.

The pumpkin, grown by 55-year old Joel Holland of Puyallup, Wash., tipped the scales at 1,229 pounds - 49 pounds heavier than last year's winner. Its circumference was 13 feet, 7 inches.

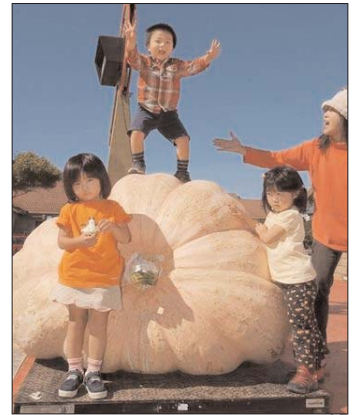
Holland, whose prodigious pumpkins won the contest three years in a row, from 1992 through 1994, planted this year's winning

pumpkin plant in May. He transported the giant gourd to California on a huge flatbed pickup truck, covering it with towels and blankets to protect its skin from dehydration.

Contest spokesman Tim Beeman said 80 pumpkins competed for the top prize, and eight weighed more than 1,000 pounds.

"It's our deepest field yet," Beeman said.

Holland wins \$5 for each winning pound of pumpkin - a total of \$6,145 - and both he and the pumpkin will be the lead attractions at the Half Moon Bay Art and Pumpkin Festival this weekend.



Kendall Shaw, 3, from Palo Alto, Calif., plays on top of the winning pumpkin in the 31st Annual World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Monday. Joel Holland, from Puyallup, Wash., won with his 1,229 pound pumpkin.

Donors Sprout up to Help Park

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (Democrat-Gazette) After cultivating 70,000 tulips, 90,000 daffodils and 60 varieties of Japanese maples, Garvan Woodland Gardens is discovering the shores of Lake Hamilton also are fertile ground for native philanthropists.

The state's largest public garden, rambling across a 210-acre peninsula on the Garland County lake, has raked in nearly \$4 million in private donations over the past 12 months, most of it from wealthy Arkansas families who own lake houses. The largess has fostered plans for a wedding chapel and a children's garden, attractions the garden needs to lure bigger crowds, close a budget gap and fulfill its promise to become the state's next major tourist attraction.

Three years after opening, the botanical garden is about 15 percent complete.



Lake Hamilton Resort

Garvan Woodland Gardens, the largest public garden in Ark., has received over \$4 million in donations this year.

Owned and operated by the University of Arkansas School of Architecture, the garden still relies on state money, including a \$337,000 loan from the university to cover operating expenses in the fiscal year ended June 30. But as its director,

David Davies, notes, the more the garden grows, the more its blooms are catching the eyes of prospective donors.

Major gifts have come from John Ed Anthony, president of Anthony Timberlands in Bearden, and his wife, Isabel; Valerie Klipsch, the widow of Paul Klipsch, founder of Klipsch Audio Technologies in Hope; retired oilman Robert Evans and his wife, Sunny; poultry industry pioneer Leon Millsap and his wife, Betty; and Dick and Carol Pratt.

All own houses on Lake Hamilton, in a resort area where the garden has found its strongest support.

"Some of these fellows are pretty weighty - they're really going to help out," said Dick Pratt, a farmer and developer who splits time between his home in Lake Village and his house on the lake.

Titans Dismantle Pack

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) - Lambeau Field just isn't what it used to be, and neither are the Green Bay Packers.

Chris Brown ran for 148 yards and two long touchdowns, and Tennessee cruised to a 48-27 rout of the stumbling Packers on Monday night, scoring more points than any visitor ever at the famed stadium.

The Titans (2-3) snapped a three-game losing streak and sent the Packers (1-4) to their fourth straight loss. This is Green Bay's first four-game losing streak since 1991 and its first 0-3 start at home since 1988.

From 1996 to 2002, Green Bay was 53-7 at home, including the postseason. The Packers lost to Atlanta in a playoff game in January 2003, starting a Lambeau slump that reached



AP

Tennessee Titans running back Chris Brown (29) breaks away for a 29-yard touchdown run in the first quarter against the Green Bay Packers.

6-7 with the loss to Tennessee.

"This is unfamiliar territory," Packers coach Mike Sherman said.

Only eight teams in NFL history have overcome a 1-4 start to reach the playoffs, including the Titans two years ago.

"It's something you want to avoid at all costs," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said.

Tennessee scored on five of its first six possessions with Brown, who had 27 carries, going in on its first two series, from 37 and 29 yards out.

Astros Rout Braves for First Series Win

ATLANTA (AP) - They jumped on each other at the pitcher's mound, then headed off to the clubhouse to pop some champagne.

It was all new to the Houston Astros, but they seemed to know what they were doing.

In their 43rd year of existence and eighth trip to the playoffs, the Astros finally won a postseason series. After such a long, arduous journey, the final step wasn't tough at all: a 12-3 rout of the Atlanta Braves on Monday night in the deciding Game 5 of their first-round NL playoff series.

Carlos Beltran hit two more homers and drove in five runs, while original Killer B's Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell chipped in during a five-run seventh



AP

Houston Astros' Jose Vizcaino, right, is safe at home after colliding with Atlanta Braves catcher Johnny Estrada in the seventh inning of Game 5.

inning that buried the Braves.

"It's nice to move on," Biggio said. "Finally."

The clubhouse celebration was rather muted for a team that has endured so much postseason disappointment. The Astros enjoyed soaking their owner,

Drayton McLane but didn't look to be satisfied with winning one playoff series.

Next up for the wildcard Astros is a matchup against Central Division rival St. Louis in the NL championship series starting Wednesday night at Busch Stadium.

In Brief

Cards Reach 3rd NLCS in 5 Years

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The St. Louis Cardinals

advanced to the NL championship series for the third time in five years, dispatching the Los Angeles Dodgers in four games in the opening round. The Cardinals haven't made it to the World Series since 1987, and haven't been champions since 1982. Beating the Dodgers convincingly gives them confidence they can get to the World Series this time. They had gone 8-7 after clinching the NL Central on Sept. 18.



Bee Gees Round Up 'Number Ones'

NEW YORK (Billboard) - In the vein of similar projects celebrating the Beatles and Elvis Presley, Universal will on Nov. 9 release "Bee Gees Number Ones," compiling chart-topping hits from the legendary Gibb brothers. The project will be released with different track lists for international markets and will also be available in a limited edition with a bonus DVD. The North American/international edition boasts 19 tracks, running chronologically from 1967's "Massachusetts" to 1987's "You Win Again." In between are such massive hits as "Jive Talkin'," "How Deep Is Your Love," "Stayin' Alive," "Night Fever" and "Tragedy."